

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/369,360

Applicant(s)

HOLZHEUER, HEIKO

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed on 7/13/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-14 and 16-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief argument, filed July 13, 2005, with respect to claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-19 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of all pending claims has been withdrawn. All the pending Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The examiner has carefully considered all the pending claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-19. The present invention relates to navigation and searching in documents which are connected by links and are most commonly referred to as hypertext documents.

Pirolli et al (US Pat No 5,895,470):

The cited reference is related to the field of analysis and design of linked collections of documents, and in particular to categorization of documents in said collection. Pirolli discloses document Visualization for traversing through and view documents residing on the web. Pirolli describes a spreading activation technique is applied to the networks starting at a focus document to predict the documents relevant to the focus document. Pirolli further describes Visualization technique for viewing these documents, such as web pages. As illustrated in FIGS. 10-11, Pirolli discloses a text similarity network and corresponding matrix representation. Referring to FIG. 10, the widths (thickness) of the lines connecting the various pages 1001-1007 is an indication of how similar the pages are.

Hoppe et al (US Pat No. 5,515,488):

The reference cited relates generally to the field of information visualization, and more particularly, graphical visualization of a database search. Hoppe discloses a computer controlled display system providing for graphical representation of a query to a database and creation and

traversal through a search history is disclosed. In Hoppe, the results of a query to a database are graphically displayed in a query window using a suitable information visualization technique. The information visualization causes the display of the query results as one or more disjoint and selectable graphical regions relative to a search scope (e.g. a Venn diagram situated on a plane). As shown in Fig. 6, Hoppe discloses a history window displaying the search history tree of FIG. 3, also discloses ionic representation of documents satisfying a corresponding search expression.

Heckerman et al (US Pat No 6,216,134):

This reference relates generally to user interfaces and, more specifically, to user interfaces for visualization of categories of data. Heckerman discloses a system that provides for the graphic visualization of the categories of a collection of records. The graphic visualization is referred to as "category graph." The system optionally displays the category graph as a "similarity graph" or a "hierarchical map." When displaying a category graph, the system displays a graphic representation of each category. The system displays the category graph as a similarity graph or a hierarchical map in a way that visually illustrates the similarity between categories. The display of a category graph allows a data analyst to better understand the similarity and dissimilarity between categories. A similarity graph includes a node for each category and an arc connecting nodes representing categories whose similarity is above a threshold. A hierarchical map is a tree structure that includes a node for each base category along with nodes representing combinations of similar categories. Similarity information can be displayed along with a hierarchical map by, for example, using different color arcs to connect nodes representing the base categories. Thus, a similarity graph is effectively superimposed on

a hierarchical map. The CV (category visualization) system indicates the relative similarity of two categories by the thickness of the arc connecting the nodes. That is, the CV system displays a thick arc to connect nodes representing categories that are similar, and displays a thin arc to connect nodes representing categories that are not similar.

The cited references, either individually or in combination, are deficient for the purpose of anticipating and/or rendering obvious claim 1. Specifically, (US Pat 895,470) and (US Pat No 6, 216,134) references describe that the relative similarity of two documents/categories are indicated by the thickness of the arc connecting the nodes. Accordingly, the cited references' system display a thick arc to connect nodes representing categories/documents that are similar, and display a thin arc to connect nodes representing categories/documents that are not similar. Thus, the strength association of (US Pat 895,470) and (US Pat No 6, 216,134) are displayed in the links or arcs between documents/categories and not within the documents themselves as required in claim 1.

Accordingly, the references do not teach or reasonably suggest at least "a similarity measure between a starting document and each other document is calculated, and wherein the document symbols are augmented by a marking dependent on the calculated measure of similarity" as required in device claim 1. Similarly, method claim 10 recites language similar to that of independent device claim 1. For at least the above reason, all pending claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-19 are allowed.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:30 – 7:00 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (571) 272-4048 Art Unit 2173.

4. An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Patent Examiner Tadesse Hailu
Art Unit 2173
9/26/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tadesse Hailu", is written over the typed name and date.